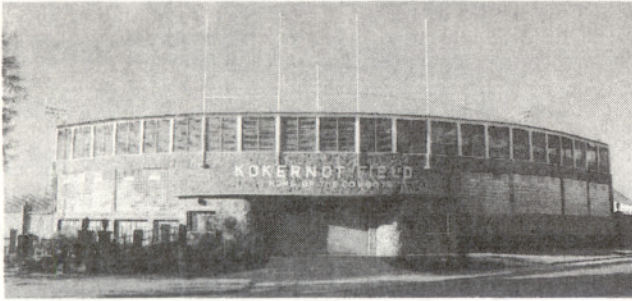


# KOKERNOT FIELD

## HOME OF THE COWBOYS



### PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL RETURNS TO THE BIG BEND

Bill Baker, W5ATO

Alpine, Tx., April 17, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. at Kokernot Field, the Continental Baseball League announced the addition of the Big Bend Cowboys franchise to its third year independent pro baseball league.

The Continental Baseball League now has 6 teams; Alexandria Aces, Big Bend Cowboys, Coastal Kingfish, South Louisiana Pipeliners, Bay Area Toros and the Texarkana Gunslingers. They have a 60 game regular season schedule followed by a post season championship playoff series.

The 2009 season began on May 14, and on May 17 the first professional baseball game to be played in Alpine since 1961 was a double header against the South Louisiana Pipeliners. Each team won a game and lost a game.

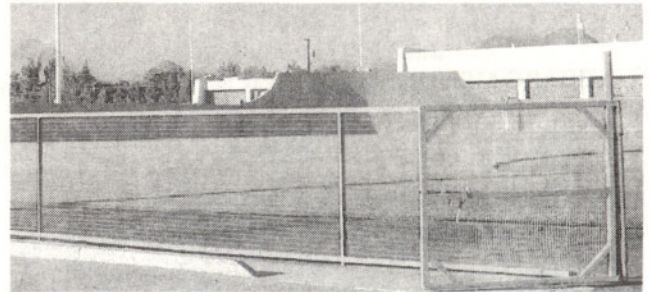
For more information on the Continental Baseball League visit <http://www.cblproball.com>

For more information on the Big Bend Cowboys visit <http://www.bigbendcowboys.com>

#### Brief History of Baseball in Alpine

It has been almost 48 years since professional baseball has been played in Alpine. Community baseball began in Alpine as early as 1902 with regional competition. By 1946 Herbert L. Kokernot, Jr. acquired control of the Alpine Cats baseball team and re-named them the Alpine Cowboys. By early may of '46, Kokernot announced plans to build the current Kokernot Field, Home of the Cowboys baseball field. While the field was still being completed in 1947, the '47 season was able to play all home games on the Kokernot Field. It was completed in the spring of '47 during the baseball season. When completed it was one of the most notable and beautiful ball parks of its day.

Built of native stone, steel and concrete, the main grand stand was built to hold 1,000 people and portable grandstands along the sidelines could be brought in to seat more than 2, 000 more spectators. Native stone fence around



the entire outfield was built 10 feet high with a graceful rise to 22 feet in the deep centerfield corner of the diamond. Each foul line measured 340', left and right center field were measured at 370' and the deep centerfield corner was measured at 430'.

Big League games came to Kokernot Field from 1949 to 1957. The first Big League exhibition game was Chicago Cubs v. St. Louis Browns. Over 6,000 people attended, (slightly more than Alpine's current population.)

H.L. Kokernot sponsored Semi-Pro Baseball in Alpine for more than 10 years. On March 20, 1953 the National Baseball Congress made a special presentation at Kokernot Field to acknowledge H.L. Kokernot Jr. from a list of over 12,000 candidates from the U.S. and Japan as the Outstanding Semi-Pro Baseball Sponsor of the Decade.

Semi-pro Baseball in Alpine ended in 1958, and in 1959 Kokernot brought an expansion team of the Boston Red Sox Sophomore League to Alpine. They played in Alpine through 1961.

[ For more information about baseball history in Alpine, Texas, and H.L. Kokernot; "Alpine, Texas then and now" A centennial edition, by Dr. Clifford B. Casey. (1981) Sponsored by the Alpine Centennial Committee, published by Pioneer Book Publishers, Seagraves, Texas. ISBN 0-933512-33-6] See pages 219-224.

